

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to provide a cross-reference to a related application and, thereby, claim the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully requested,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date indicated below.

October 10, 2001  
Date of mailing and signature

Stephanie L. Leicht  
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